

SPECIFICATION

[Electronic Version 1.2.8]

[BAGEL CUTTER]

Cross Reference to Related Applications

This application is based on provisional application 60/394,111 filed July 6, 2002

Background of Invention

[0001] This invention relates to bagel holders and slicers. In particular, this invention discloses a one piece molded device which holds a bagel between flexible side members while permitting one to safely and evenly slice a bagel in an expeditious manner.

[0002] The prior art includes U.S. Patent 6,542,211 to Skoko which discloses a cutting frame for holding a bagel to be sliced into two pieces. The guide member in the frame includes a knife slot in a structure which is dissimilar from the present invention.

[0003] Patent 6,532,864 to Ancona discloses a combination slicer and toaster while patent 6,474,210 to Niel discloses a bagel slicer having an annular body with a slot for movement of a knife having a handle extending externally of the slot.

[0004] Further bagel holders are shown in U.S. Patents 6,389,944; 6,318,222; 6,244,153; 6,202,529; and, 6,186,038.

[0005] None of the above patents disclose the particular features which lend patentability to the present invention.

Summary of Invention

[0006] This invention relates to a bagel holder or cutter that permits slicing a bagel safely, evenly and with ease. The holder comprises a one piece molded structure which includes a base, spaced end portions extending vertically upward from the base and extending upward therefrom.

[0007] The end portions each include an opposing vertical slot which cooperates with an elongated slot in the base to accommodate a knife during slicing. The side members include a plurality of inwardly extending ribs which grip a bagel when the flexible side members are squeezed. The exterior surface of the side members includes a plurality of spaced ribs for gripping purposes. The end portions include triangular ribs extending downwardly to the base to center a bagel which is inserted into the holder between the sides.

[0008] In use, a bagel is simply inserted into the holder/cutter between the side members. The bagel slides into position guided by the triangular end ribs. A knife is positioned in the opposing slots with one hand. The side members are then squeezed with the other hand to firmly grip the bagel with the internal side ribs. The bagel is then sliced completely through evenly and safely, with the knife moving downwardly into the base slot. Releasing the side members permits removal of the sliced bagel.

[0009] Accordingly, an object of this invention is to provide a new and improved device for safely slicing bagels and the like.

[0010] Another object of this invention is to provide an inexpensive, reliable device for safely holding and slicing bagels.

[0011] A further object of this invention is to provide a new and improved device for holding bagels with flexible side members while a knife is guided by slots in the end portions and base of the device.

[0012] A more specific object of this invention is to provide a unique one piece molded device which includes end portions which guide a bagel into position between flexible gripping side members and each include a knife slot to guide a knife during slicing and cooperate with an elongated slot in a base to permit slicing the bagel completely through in a safe and expeditious manner.

Brief Description of Drawings

[0013] The above and other objects of this invention may be more clearly seen when viewed in conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein.

[0014] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the invention.

[0015] FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the invention in operation showing a bagel being cut.

[0016] FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional end view of the invention taken along the line 3-3 of FIG. 1.

[0017] FIG. 4 is an end cross-sectional view of the invention with a bagel in position prior to slicing.

[0018] FIG. 5 is a partial perspective view of the invention showing the inside thereof; and.

[0019] FIG. 6 is a perspective view of an alternate embodiment of the invention.

Detailed Description

[0020] This invention pertains to a Squeeze-N-Slice™ bagel cutter 10, shown in FIG. 1 which allows one to slice a bagel 11 evenly, safely, and with ease. The bagel cutter 10 comprises a base 12 and upwardly extending end portions 13a and 13b at one end and 13c and 13d at the other end. A pair of spaced opposing sides 14a, 14b extend between the end portions 13a, 13b and 13c, 13d. The sides 14a, 14b are each pivotally mounted to the base 12 at 15 and 16 respectively. The bagel cutter 10 may be molded in one piece from plastic or may comprise separate elements fastened together as shown in FIG. 6.

[0021] The two opposing sides 14a and 14b each have three protruding ribs 17a, 18a and 19a and 17b, 18b and 19b on the interior surfaces 21, 22 to prevent a bagel 11 from sliding out of the holder 10 while it is being cut. The ribs 17a, 18a, 19a and 17b, 18b and 19b extend from the respective edges 23a and 23b in an outward curve 32 tapering to the base of side 14a or 14b. The opposing sides 14a and 14b are flexible so that one can obtain a firm grip on the bagel 11 by squeezing the two sides 14a, 14b together. The tops 23a, 23b of the flexible sides 14a, 14b are normally angled outward from their base 24a, 24b so there is more interior space at the top of the cutter or holder 10 than at the bottom. The angled sides 14a, 14b center the bagel 11 so that it may be cut into equal halves while allowing virtually any size bagel or roll 11 to fit into the bagel cutter 10. The outside surfaces 25a, 25b of the two flexible sides 14a, 14b include a plurality of ridges 26a, 26b and projecting upper edges 23a and 2 to permit a firmer grip by one's hand 50 while the bagel 11 is being cut.

[0022] Two knife slots 27a and 27b extend vertically one at each end portion between 13a and 13b and between 13c and 13d at the other end above flexible sides 14a, 14b holding the bagel 11. Thus, the knife slots 27a, 27b extend above the top of the bagel 11 to allow placement of the knife 30 in the knife slots 27a, 27b before one grasps the two flexible sides 14a, 14b and squeezes them together to hold the bagel 11 for slicing.